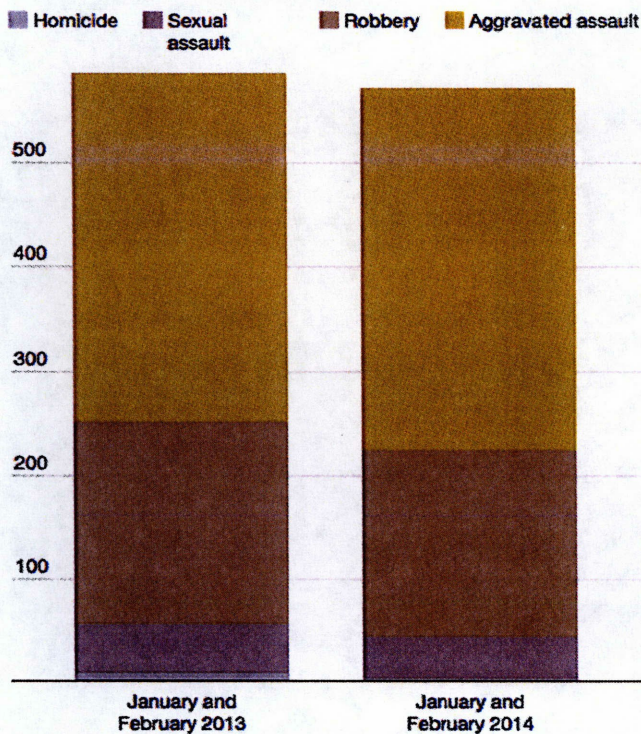


Legal, regulated marijuana means LESS crime, not more

Studies of crime rates in Colorado before and after marijuana stores opened there have found small DECREASES in both violent and property crime rates, not increases. It's clear: legal marijuana doesn't produce more criminals, but it does free up the police to concentrate on truly dangerous offenders.

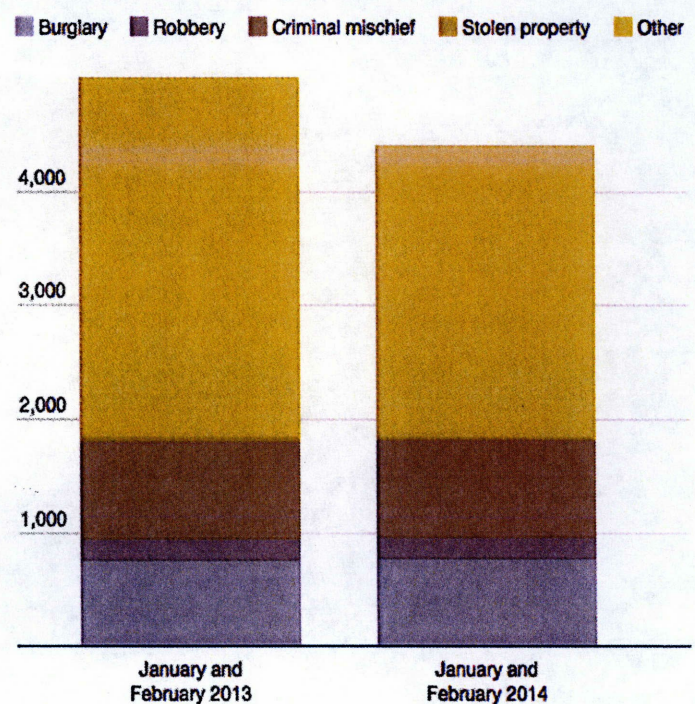
Violent crime in Denver



Created with [Datawrapper](#)

Source: [Denver Police Department](#)

Property crime in Denver



Created with [Datawrapper](#)

Source: [Denver Police Department](#)

The myth is that legal marijuana means more crime. But the facts are in: allowing marijuana to be sold and regulated does not increase crime rates and might even help lower them.

Marijuana: Medicine for Many



Marijuana is not just a recreational drug—for many people, it's also vital medicine. Marijuana's medical benefits are no myth—they are numerous and widely acknowledged in the medical community. Marijuana has been shown to help with the following conditions, along with many more:

- Glaucoma
- Alzheimer's disease
- Multiple sclerosis
- Chron's disease
- Epileptic seizures
- Migraines
- Chronic pain
- Nausea
- Muscle spasms

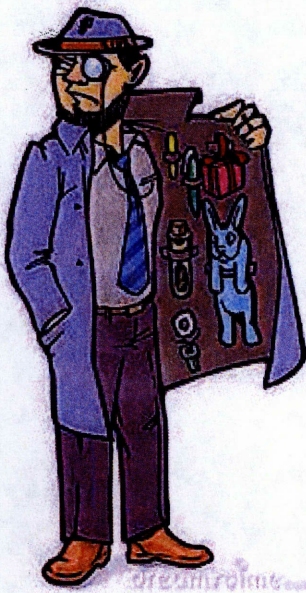


Marijuana can get a bad rap, but to a cancer patient suffering crippling nausea from chemotherapy or a glaucoma sufferer struggling with the loss of sight, marijuana can be an invaluable tool to provide relief and help fight their disease. Millions of Americans—including members of our community—suffer from these conditions and are helped by medical marijuana.

End the black market:

Tax and regulate marijuana

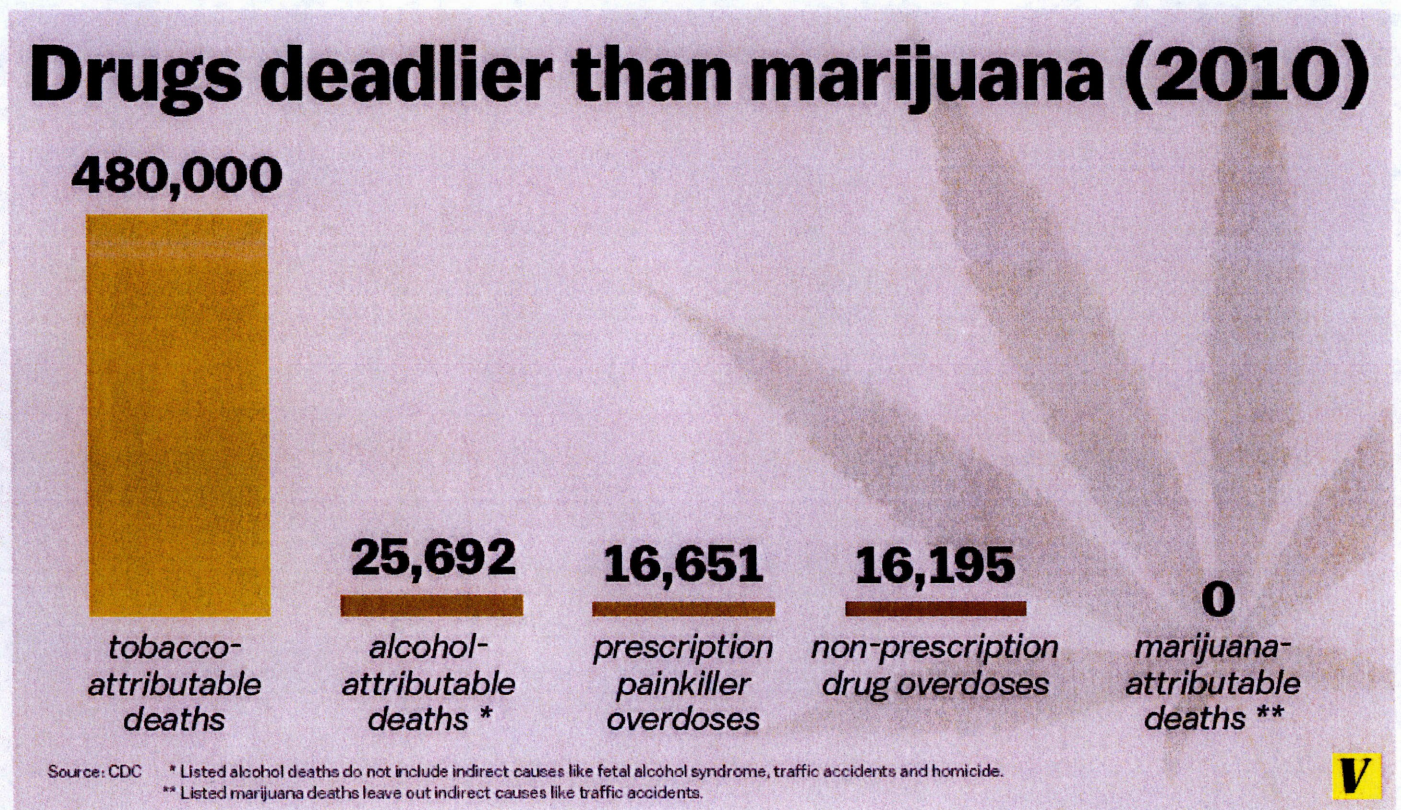
Banning marijuana sales doesn't mean marijuana will not be sold in our community—it just means that the sales will be on the black market. That means more danger for our children and our community.



- Banning *marijuana sales* doesn't mean banning *marijuana*—marijuana can still be purchased legally elsewhere in the state and brought here, and unfortunately, without a legal store, it will continue to be bought and sold here illegally as well.
- Black market marijuana sales keep criminals in our community and give them a means to support themselves illegally.
- If the marijuana is purchased legally and brought back here, that means other cities will collect taxes on it and we will miss out.
- Bringing marijuana sales above board and regulating them will make it harder for a minor to get access to marijuana. It's harder for a kid to get a bottle of liquor than a bag of marijuana, and that's because legalization and regulation is safer, smarter, and more effective.

Marijuana Not as Dangerous as Alcohol and Tobacco

Compared to legal drugs like tobacco and alcohol, marijuana is relatively safe. Tobacco, alcohol and even prescription drugs kill more Americans every year than marijuana -- in fact, to date, no one has ever died of a marijuana overdose. And alcohol, tobacco and even caffeine are more addictive than marijuana.



Researchers have also shown that the idea that marijuana is a “gateway drug” is a myth. More people start using alcohol and tobacco at a young age than do marijuana, and most people who try marijuana never use any other illegal drugs.

If we can regulate and sell liquor and cigarettes while making adults aware of the dangers and keeping them out of the hands of children, why can't we do the same for marijuana?

In Our Kids' Best Interest

Allowing legal marijuana sales wouldn't lead to kids getting access to pot—but it would mean a safer community



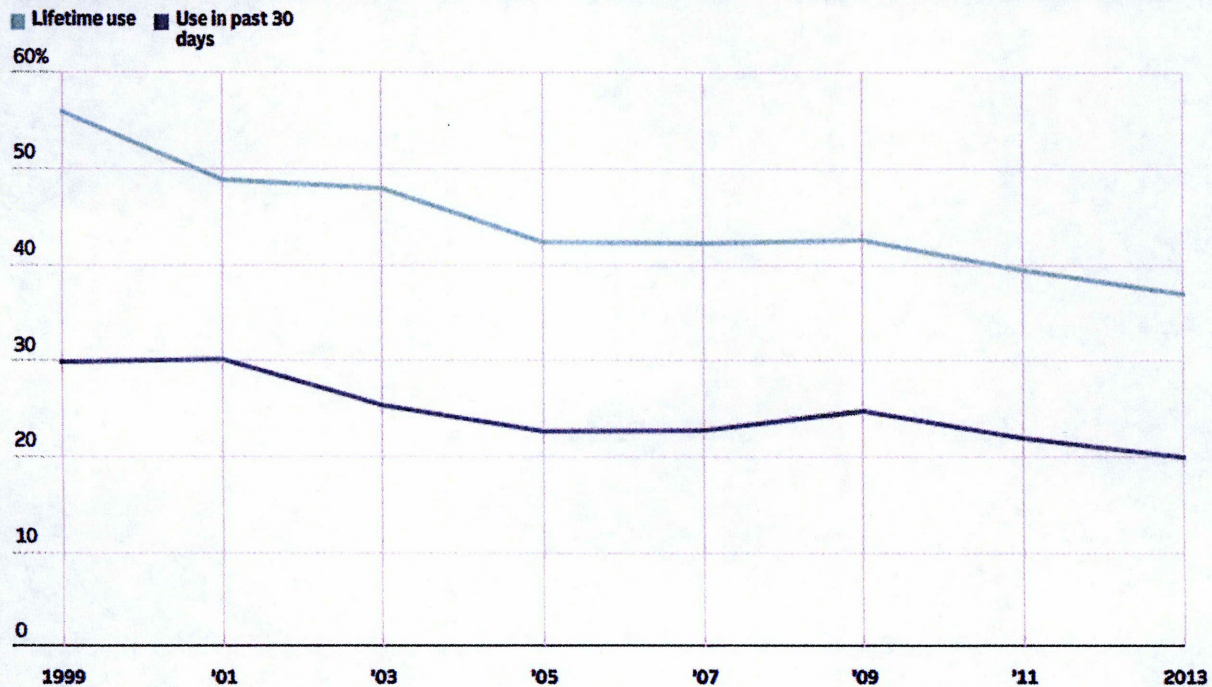
- Washington state law states clearly that no one under 21 is allowed to purchase marijuana or enter marijuana stores or to be associated in any way with a marijuana business.
- The Washington Liquor Control Board is aggressively enforcing the law on marijuana and are particularly focused on protecting kids, conducting stings to make sure no marijuana is being sold to anyone under 21.
- The last thing we want is to see children in our community endangered. By making sure marijuana is sold in stores instead of on the street, we can better keep it away from our kids and protect our community's safety.



Legal marijuana does NOT cause more drug use among minors

Colorado has seen the rate of marijuana use by high school students gradually DROP as their marijuana laws have become more relaxed (first with the institution of medical marijuana in 2001 and later the legalization of possession for adults over 21 in 2012).

Marijuana use among Colorado high school students



Source: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment survey

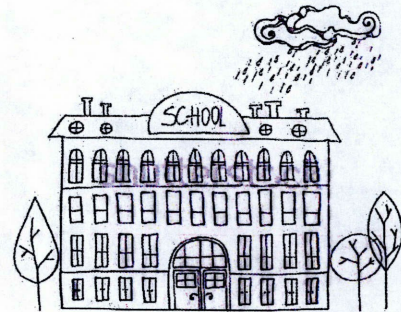
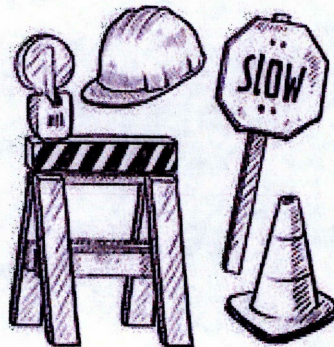
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Right now teens have easy access to marijuana on the black market—but if we legalize and regulate marijuana sales, we can aggressively enforce the minimum age requirement of 21 and keep marijuana out of the hands of our older children.

Sales Tax Generated from Recreational Marijuana Sales*

City Sales Tax Percentage	Estimated Monthly Sales Tax Generated	Estimated Annual Sales Tax Generated
2.3%	\$11,500	\$138,000

Based on a monthly gross revenue of \$500,000



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The tax money generated from the sales of recreational marijuana can greatly benefit the community by providing extra funds for construction projects, schools, and city services.

*These figures are for Bonney Lake, WA—your own community may have a higher and lower sales tax rate, but this is meant to give you a general idea of possible revenue.